

WASHINGTON- Today the Department of Homeland Security in Washington, D.C. announced that the Maplesville Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department has been awarded funding through the Assistance to Firefighters grant program.

The Department will be receiving \$38,916, which is designated for several eligible activities under the Assistance to Firefighters grant program. They are training, equipment, personal protective equipment, wellness and fitness, and modifications to fire stations and facilities.

All local fire departments were awarded these grants based on recommendations from nine major national fire service organizations. Many fire and rescue departments applied for the grants, but only the applications most closely conforming to program priorities were reviewed and scored by peer review panels.

In Fiscal Year 2006, the DHS Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program will award approximately \$485 million directly to fire departments and emergency medical service (EMS) organizations to enhance their ability to protect the health and safety of the public.

"The Maplesville Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department has my congratulations for working so hard to get this grant," said Congressman Spencer Bachus. "The funding will go a long way toward making the citizens of Maplesville and the volunteer firefighters that serve this community safer."

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